surface of an article.

1 and 12

- 49. A product according to claim 42, sprayed onto the surface of the article.
- 50. A product according to claim 42, wherein the article comprises a honeycomb structure.
- 51. A product according to claim 42, further comprising a phenolic glass laminate sandwiched between the honeycomb structure and the product.
- 52. A fire wall comprising a heat resistant product according to claim 42.

## REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 25, and 26 are non-elected in the accompanying Election, and have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 17-25 and 27, elected in the accompanying Election, have been cancelled and replaced by claims 28-52, which are in better form for examination and distinguish over the prior art of which Applicant is aware.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made

to the claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

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(N-23)

## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1-27 have been cancelled. New claims 28-52 have been added as follows:

- 28. A method of manufacturing a heat resistant product, the method comprising:
- (i) coating vermiculite granules with a ceramic binder, and curing/drying the binder to form precoated vermiculite granules; and
- (ii) coating the precoated vermiculite granules with a ceramic binder, and curing/drying the binder,

wherein between 35% and 95% of the dry weight of the product is vermiculite having a particle size such that more than 60% of the vermiculite does not pass through a 1mm sieve.

- 29. A method according to claim 28, wherein the curing/drying steps comprise heating or vacuum drying.
- 30. A method according to claim 28, wherein the mixture of precoated vermiculite granules and binder is held in a mould or press during curing/drying in step (ii).
- 31. A method according to claim 28, wherein the mixture of precoated vermiculite granules and binder is coated onto a surface of an article prior to the curing/drying step.

- 32. A method according to claim 28, wherein 50%-90% of the dry weight of the product is vermiculite having a particle size such that more than 60% of the vermiculite does not pass through a 1mm sieve.
- 33. A method according to claim 29, wherein 50%-90% of the dry weight of the product is vermiculite having a particle size such that more than 60% of the vermiculite does not pass through a 1mm sieve.
- 34. A method according to claim 28, wherein the vermiculite has a particle size such that more than 80% of the vermiculite does not pass through a 2mm sieve.
- 35. A method according to claim 29, wherein the vermiculite has a particle size such that more than 80% of the vermiculite does not pass through a 2mm sieve.
- . 36. A method according to claim 28, wherein the binder comprises the adhesive part of a two part binder.
- 37. A method according to claim 29, wherein the binder comprises the adhesive part of a two part binder.
  - 38. A method according to claim 28, wherein the binder

comprises the adhesive part of a two part binder, mixed with powdered vermiculite.

- 39. A method according to claim 29, wherein the binder comprises the adhesive part of a two part binder, mixed with powdered vermiculite.
- 40. A method according to claim 28, wherein the vermiculite granules have a maximum dimension up to 15mm.
- 41. A method according to claim 29, wherein the vermiculite granules have a maximum dimension up to 15mm.
- 42. A heat resistant product obtainable by a method according to claim 28.
- 43. A product according to claim 42, wherein the product is substantially rigid.
- 44. A product according to claim 42, further comprising glass fibre or other fibrous material reinforcement.
- 45. A product according to claim 42, which comprises voids which include trapped air.

- 46. A product according to claim 42, wherein the product is sandwiched between load supporting sheets adhered to the product.
- 47. A product according to claim 42, adhered onto the surface of an article.
- 48. A product according to claim 42, moulded onto the surface of an article.
- 49. A product according to claim 42, sprayed onto the surface of the article.
- 50. A product according to claim 42, wherein the article comprises a honeycomb structure.
- 51. A product according to claim 42, further comprising a phenolic glass laminate sandwiched between the honeycomb structure and the product.
- 52. A fire wall comprising a heat resistant product according to claim 42.